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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Nelson  
Serial No.: 09/024,988  
Filed: February 17, 1998  
For: Mass Spectrometric Immunoassay  
Atty. Docket No.: 530-005

Art Group: 1642  
Examiner: Ungar, Susan

14/DNE  
8/24/01  
P

Box Fee Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**After Final Amendment in Response to Office Action Dated 3/15/01**

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated 3/15/01, kindly amend the subject application as follows:

**Clean Version of Replacement Sections**

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 31 A method for quantifying an analyte in a specimen, said method comprising the steps of:

- Sub F<sub>1</sub>
- a) combining said specimen with an internal reference species (IRS) of known concentration, in order to calibrate all subsequent steps; whereby said combination is referred to as an IRS-containing specimen;
  - b) combining said IRS-containing specimen with an affinity reagent, capturing and isolating said analyte and said IRS, wherein said IRS is a modified analyte with shifted molecular weight which binds to said affinity reagent;